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1963/03/29

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

Control: 22172

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Rec'd: MARCH 29, 1963
9:37 AM

Info

FROM: VIENTIANE

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 1347, MARCH 29, 6 PM

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AT MEETING OF AMBASSADORS (U.S., U.K., FRENCH, AUSTRALIA) THIS MORNING, FRENCH CHARGE CADOL AND I COMPARED NOTES ON KONG LE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS. I MENTIONED NEED FOR RIFLES, PERHAPS UP TO 2,000, AND ASKED WHETHER PERHAPS THERE WERE SOME STOCKS OF ARMAMENT AT SENO WHICH MIGHT BE USED BY KONG LE. I NOTED THAT UNDER GENEVA ACCORDS TRANSFER INSIDE LAOS OF THIS KIND OF MATERIEL MUCH EASIER THAN IMPORTING.

CADOL REPLIED ANY SUCH STOCKS AT SENO NOW SCHEDULED BE SHIPPED TO FRANCE. ALTHOUGH NEITHER OF US HAD PRECISE INFORMATION ON WHAT FRENCH MAY HAVE IN SENO STOCKS, AND CADOL ASSUMED ANY WEAPONS THERE WOULD LIKELY BE OUTDATED, I NEVERTHELESS URGED HIM STRONGLY TO REVIEW KONG LE'S REQUESTS FOR HELP IN THIS FIELD AGAINST SENO INVENTORY AND SEE WHETHER SOME OF KONG LE'S NEEDS MIGHT NOT BE MET THIS WAY. CADOL AGREED BUT I AM DOUBTFUL HOW MUCH SUCCESS HE WILL HAVE IN THIS EFFORT WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARIS FOR HIM AND OTHERS FOR FRENCH MILITARY.

IN CONVERSATIONS WITH FALAIZE PARIS OR AT SEATO MEETING, SUGGEST THIS MATTER BE PURSUED. IT MAY BE THAT THERE IS LITTLE OF INTEREST AT SENO BUT EVEN SO THIS QUESTION WOULD PROVIDE OPENING FOR PRESSING FRENCH TO JOIN WITH US IN SUPPORT TO KONG LE AND NEUTRALISTS IN GENERAL, INCLUDING CERTAINLY EVERYTHING REQUIRED TO SUPPORT FRENCH

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-2- 1347, MARCH 29, 6 PM FROM VIENTIANE

WEAPONS ALREADY IN NEUTRALIST HANDS AND PERHAPS ALSO HELP WITH
TROOP PAY. ON BASIS FRENCH ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT NEUTRAL SOLU-
TION BELIEVE THEY HAVE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

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